



## **Western South Dakota Outdoor Report**

Wildlife Division Region 1  
October 17, 2014



**Region 1 Wildlife Report DATE: 10/10/2014**

### **North District** (Lawrence, Butte, Harding, Perkins, Meade & Ziebach)

**Reporting Officer:** DCOS Aplan, WCO's Eastman, Mutschler, Fees & Hein

#### **Fishing Report:**

**Lawrence County** –Fishing activity has slowed down, but the fishing success is good, most Hills lakes getting the large fall stockings before ice.

**Butte County** – Anglers fishing Orman have been having some success catching their walleye over 18” throughout Orman. Walleye under 15” have been harder to come by at this time. Anglers fishing Orman/Belle Fourche Reservoir please remember that there is a slot and only one Walleye over 18” may be kept per person. Also, Walleye between 15” to 18” cannot be kept. Small mouth bass and perch are regularly being caught. Boaters please remember to properly drain the boat before leaving the launch areas. Help us keep the aquatic nuisance out of our lakes!

**Perkins County** – Fishing is starting to pick back up for fall. Water temperatures are starting to drop and fish activity has increased. Anglers are having success catching crappie and walleye.



#### **Western Prairie Lake and dams:**

Fishing has been slow.

Please read the Western Lakes Regulations when fishing due to the changes of limits and sizes of fish in each lake.

**Wildlife:**

The resident pheasant opener was this past weekend and numerous hunters were checked in the eastern portion of the central district. Hunters were discouraged due to the amount of unharvested crops in the field. Those hunters that had limits worked hard to get them!

Duck season (High Planes) opened this past weekend and hunters seemed to do better on Sunday as the weather cooled. Lots of teal were found in daily limits. Remember, hunters are allowed two bonus blue-winged teal for the first 16 days of the season (Oct 11<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>).

This upcoming weekend will be the end of the rifle antelope season (closing on Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>). Antelope numbers seem to be on the rise with the reduction of licenses, and hunters appeared to be successful during this year's season. An unfortunate violation found every year (including this year) is the pursuit of antelope by vehicles. This is obviously not fair chase and anyone witnessing such violation is encouraged to call the TIPs hotline: 1-888-OVERBAG.

The antlerless elk season opens on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>. It's a great time of year to be out in the woods amongst elk. Elk are extremely vocal right now.

Please remember to get the 2014 Hunting Handbook and read up on new changes for this year. Also, the 2014 Hunting Atlas is out. Please review due to changes in WIA land this year in certain locations.

Fall survey is still in progress. As of now the department is surveying deer. The State of South Dakota Pheasant survey has been completed and you can find the results on the GFP website.

**Meade County** – Activity has been slow throughout Meade County. Fishing should pick up as the temperatures reduce. Durkee Lake is still a good place to take youngsters as bluegill and bullheads anxiously wait below the dock.

Access to Howes corner lakes is now open now that Hwy 34 construction is opened to traffic again.

**Ziebach** – Anglers reports have been limited in recent weeks. It's always important to pay special attention to deeded land vs. tribal land in relation to having the correct license. Glad Valley dam has been quite productive resulting in quality bass and perch.

**Hunting Report:**

Archery deer season opened the end of September. Although deer numbers are down throughout most of western SD hunters can still have a quality archery hunting experience. Remember to respect the land, landowners, and wildlife by following rules and taking good ethical shots.

Rifle Antelope season recently opened and hunters are reporting good success.

Prairie unit 9 and 15 Elk hunters are reminded they are required to acquire permission from landowners prior to the hunt, as these are private land hunts only.

Resident-only pheasant season opens October 11<sup>th</sup>. Hunters remember that this season is good for public lands only and road right-of-ways do not qualify as public land.

Duck season also opens October 11<sup>th</sup> for the High Plains region. The resident duck numbers are good and can be found on many ponds throughout northwest SD. It would be a good idea to go hunting ducks with a seasoned duck hunter that can help in duck identification. The daily duck limit is such that positive identification is very important before the shot is taken.

Check GFP website for the many other planned events and classes for your area.

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**DATE: 09/016/2014**

**Things to Remember:**

- With the hunting season upon us, hunters please be cognizant of the fire dangers. Pay close attention to vehicle travel, cigarette butts, camp fires, and all other potential fire starters. It is always a good idea to take along a fire extinguisher just in case!
- Backcountry roads when wet are a mess. Please avoid tearing up roads and private driveways when possible.
- Hunters please remember baiting wildlife for the purpose of hunting is illegal. Step up to the challenge, don't bait.
- Dove hunters are required to harvest doves in flight and 50yrd from the road.
- Archery hunters should review recent regulation updates before entering the field.

**DATE: 10/15/2014**

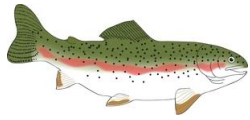
**Central District**

(SE Lawrence, S Meade, C Pennington, E Pennington, Haakon, N Jackson, NE Custer)

**Reporting Officer: WCO's Brainard, Edwards, Geigle, Keeton, Thomsen  
DCOS McCormick**

**Fishing Activity: Western South Dakota**

## **Black Hills area lakes and streams:**



- Anglers are catching a few decent trout and some crappies size of hand on Sheridan Lake. Fish are mainly being caught on worms and some anglers catching on salmon eggs. Anglers are having success with

**We encourage all anglers to read the 2014 Fishing Handbook for regulations.**



### **Western Prairie Lake and dams:**

There are a few crappies being caught from shore at Curlew Lake. Surveys were conducted on New Wall Dam and New Underwood Dam. Lots of catchable largemouth bass were detected at New Wall Dam. The fish kill did not affect New Underwood Dam that much, lots of largemouth bass detected during the survey.

There is still a good population of bluegills in the lake also. Fishing should be picking up with the cooler weather.

Please read the Western Lakes Regulations when fishing due to the changes of limits and sizes of fish in each

### **Wildlife:**

Doves are still in the area. Remember that dove season has specific regulations, so please review them prior to going out. Archery antelope season is in progress as well. There are few archery antelope hunters out right now. Good time to target water holes before the rut starts. Grouse season starts this weekend September 20, 2014.

Please remember to get the 2014 Hunting Handbook and read up on new changes for this year. Also, the 2014 Hunting Atlas is out. Please review due to changes in WIA land this year in certain locations.

Fall survey is still in progress. As of now the department is surveying antelope, turkey and deer in the Black hills. The State of South Dakota Pheasant survey has been completed and you can find the results on the GFP website.

**PLEASE REMEMBER WITH DRIER WEATHER/GRASS BRINGS HIGHER FIRE DANGER. PEOPLE RESPECTFUL ON PUBLIC AREAS WITH THE FALL HUNTING SEASON APPROACHING.**

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# Region 1 Wildlife Report

## Southern District

**Date:** 9/23/2014

**County:** Bennett/East Shannon/South Jackson

**Activity:**

Nothing new to report.



### Hunting Report:

**Waterfowl** – I'm seeing a lot of ducks on many of the wetlands. While the hunting seasons are not on yet, it is a great time to watch or photograph them.

### Small Game

**Fishing** – The grouse opener was pretty slow in this area. The grouse are still spread out and require a lot of miles of walking to find them. Most hunters in this area wait until we have some colder weather which brings the grouse out the sandhills to hunt them as the birds are bunched and much easier to find. Speaking of finding birds, it is getting much harder to find a mourning dove. There are still a few that haven't headed south yet, but it would be hard to find enough to make it worthwhile to hunt. There are some pheasants this year, but they are spotty. Where there is cover, there are usually birds. Not like a couple of years ago, but quite a bit better than last year. There are some exceptions as bad hail storms killed birds in a couple of strips across the area.

**Land Report** -- The walk in hunting books should be coming out in a month or so. You will see some additions and some deletions for this area. Basically we lost a couple thousand acres of access this year. Some was because of land ownership changes while other losses were the result of hunters not appreciating what they had. It only takes a few incidents to ruin it for everyone and result in land closures. I cannot say enough times that hunters need to police themselves. If you see someone driving on walk in areas, or using the walk in areas to access private lands where they do not have permission, please let us know. Your call may insure having a place to hunt in the future.

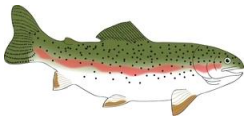
### District Report-

**Big Game** – I have found one more whitetail deer (a buck) which likely died of EHD. If you find any safety course planned for the nights of September 24 – 26 in Martin. Please contact Gary Rayhill or Tom Beck for more information.



**County:** West Custer/West Pennington  
**Reporting Officer:** WCO Jacob Ehlert  
**Date:** 9/23/2014

**Fishing:** Guys are doing very well at Deerfield. Fishing has been outstanding after rains.



**Fishing:** Trout fishing has been excellent with the colder weather. Some very nice trout are being picked up lately. Remember only 1 trout over 14" in the Black Hills trout management area.

**Big Game:** The elk rut is on. If you have an archery elk tag the time to hunt is now. Bulls are very receptive to calls and are talking all day long.

Remember the 10pm curfew when locating animals with a spotlight. No weapons in the vehicle while spotlighting.

Turkey and elk surveys are also still underway. It is very difficult to see the turkeys this year due to the tall vegetation cover. We are collecting data from the Hills and Prairie units.

**Small Game:** Lots of rabbits and squirrels.

**District Report:** If you are going camping in the Black Hills Fire Protection District remember no open fires outside of designated campgrounds. This has been an issue lately.

**If you witness a violation please call TIPS at 1-888-OVERBAG or your local Sheriff's Office. Making the call can prevent poachers from stealing YOUR public resource!**



**Date:** 9/17/2014  
**County:** East Custer/South Pennington  
**Reporting Officer:** WCO Ron Tietz

**Fishing Activity:** Some good fishing at Bismarck Lake, trout, crappie and fat bullheads pulling on the line. Rainbows are biting at Sylvan, Center, Legion and Horse thief. Stockade Lake is great for pan fish right now, small bluegill, crappie and perch will keep the young ones entertained for hours.

**Big Game:** All 4 archery elk hunters in CSP have filled their tags with bull elk, the rut is in full swing and it is a good time to listen for bugles in CSP and Wind Cave, morning and evenings are best.

Remember that spotlighting is legal with no firearms or bows in the vehicle, you can spotlight up to 10:00 PM. In Wind Cave and other National Parks you cannot spotlight at any time.

**Small Game:** The cold snap sent some of the doves packing their bags south for the winter but grouse season kicks off this weekend so there will still be some small game hunting opportunities in the area

**District Report:**

Buffalo round up and arts festival are coming up September 26th at Custer State Park, you won't want to miss the action.

**Date:** 9/15/2014

**County:** **Fall River**

**Reporting Officer:** WCO DJ Schroeder



**Fishing Activity:** Harvest from area waters remains constant. Coldbrook and Cottonwood Reservoirs were recently stocked. This should provide some decent opportunity to catch some trout. Angostura remains a little slower - but some nice fish are being harvested daily.

**Hunting Report:**



There are several archery antelope hunters in the area. Success is limited - but hunters are finding a few antelope to chase around. Seeing a few successful elk hunters this last week. The cold snap sure help "wake the bulls up". Should be an excellent hunt this fall. Youth hunters are beginning to take interest in the deer hunting also. There are still doves in the area - - but the cool weather has sent a lot of them south. Not seeing a lot of pheasants out there yet. Hard to tell with all the cover - but it looks like it may take a few more years to re-build that

population.

**District Report:**

This is that time of year when we really need assistance from sportsmen to contact us when you see something that doesn't look right in terms of illegal activity out there.

Please take the time to record a license number and vehicle description when you witness a fish or game violation. Don't hesitate to call the TIP's Hotline or the local Sheriff's Office and report the violators. You will help us all preserve the sport!!

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